

'Red Dragons' Prove Versatility, Aid Community

By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Since arriving in Iraq nearly seven months ago, the Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment have performed numerous missions; however, few of them have involved anything traditionally associated with a field artillery battalion.

While the "Red Dragons," part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, maintain a small contingent of Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon who do perform fire missions, which are known as "hot guns," the majority of the battalion has found itself

performing duties such as conducting patrols usually associated with infantry Soldiers.

"I think field artillery is kind of getting to be a utility Soldier," explained Capt. Donald Cherry, the commander of Battery A, 3-82nd FA. "We can do the hot gun piece and shoot the indirect fire, and we're getting better and better everyday at doing the mount operations, too."

Cherry's Soldiers continued to demonstrate their versatility by assisting Soldiers with the 97th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Fort Bragg, N.C., with a humanitarian mission in Baghdad's Qadisiyah neighborhood May 15.

While the majority of

Qadisiyah is relatively well off compared to other areas of Baghdad, the area that was targeted for this particular mission was extremely impoverished.

"We've been looking at that area. It's where a lot of our displaced families are living right now," Cherry explained. "These people kind of moved in after the war - these displaced squatters - and today we're just trying to build a rapport with them."

Shortly after the Soldiers' arrival to the neighborhood, people quickly flocked from their mud huts and makeshift homes and gathered around the Soldiers as they prepared to begin the distribution of hygiene products.

As they entered the distri-

bution area, medics were on-hand to discuss any medical issues that anyone may have been experiencing.

"Today we were seeing mainly allergies and some old, reoccurring injuries that were flaring up - just mainly basic 'sick call' stuff is what we're seeing," said Spc. Roosevelt Geeslin, a medic with 3-82nd FA.

Geeslin, a native of Galveston Island, Texas, said that while the medics were handing out some basic medical supplies, their mission was mainly to just see what kind of medical issues are affecting the peo-

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(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Spc. Roosevelt Geeslin, a medic with 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, takes the blood pressure of a Qadisiyah resident during a humanitarian mission in the Baghdad neighborhood May 15.

Attention!

Force Protection Exercise

All military and civilian personnel on Victory Base Complex will be required to be in Uniform Posture U2 from 1100 to 1600 Friday, May 25. Each person will don a helmet, outer tactical vest and ballistic eye protection. Entry control points will not be closed to authorized traffic, however, internal traffic control points will only allow passages to vehicles with passes and/or traffic that is mission essential. To obtain a vehicle pass go down to your local force protection section or base defense operations center by May 22. That's today!

Artillery Troops Lend Helping Hand to Iraqi Nationals

Dragons

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ple in this area of Qadisiyah.

"We're trying to get a feel for what's out here, so that we can bring meds to assist with that and whatever else we can help with," he explained.

After visiting with the medics, the locals filed through to another line where items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, and miscellaneous school supplies were handed out.

All of the items were donated to Maj. Gary Spivey, a member of one of the 1st Infantry Division's National Police Training Teams, from the post chapel at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He said that after receiving the items, he coordinated with the Civil Affairs team at FOB Union III to set up a humanitarian drop.

"We can't help them with everything, but if we can help them with one small thing just to make their lives a little bit better then that's good," Spivey said, explaining his motivation for

wanting to see these donated items go to some of Baghdad's neediest residents.

"I enjoy just seeing a smile on their faces," he added. "Giving them something as simple as a bottle of water, soap, socks or toothpaste - it brings a smile to their faces and that makes it worth it."

Most of the Soldiers who took part in the mission agreed, saying that just knowing that they are making a difference is a huge reward.

"I'm all for it," said Pfc. Brian Stoller, a mechanic with 3-82nd FA. "Compared to America, we're in the third world here and I'm more than happy to help these people out as much as I can. I'm all about the mission."

Stoller said that while he enjoys being able to get out into the city and interact with the people, it is not what he imagined he would be doing before he left Fort Hood, Texas.

"It's completely different. In garrison, I worked on vehicles in a maintenance bay, and here I'm



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Residents of Qadisiyah line up to get supplies during a humanitarian mission conducted May 15.

on the ground doing pretty much [infantry] work," the LaCrosse, Ind. native explained. "I like this; I like doing this job, though. I don't want to be stuck in the FOB working on vehicles the whole deployment. I didn't come here to do that."

Stoller noted that he has gained a great deal of experience that will help him throughout his military career, and Cherry said that it's this is the kind of attitude that most of his Soldiers have demonstrated and it is because of

this that their deployment has been successful.

"A lot of the younger guys - especially the E-5's and below - this is all they've really known in the artillery," Cherry explained. "The whole time that they've been in [the Army] we've been in OIF. So a lot of them, they're pretty good whether we're doing a mounted infantry mission or the artillery mission."

"They're starting to build those relationships with the people," he added.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

mumtaaz

**Defined:
excellent**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

**High: 103
Low: 79**



Tomorrow

**High: 104
Low: 79**



Thursday

**High: 106
Low: 79**

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Soldiers Find Sizeable Cache, Detain Suspect

By 1-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers found a large weapons cache and detained one suspect May 19 near Al Hamdanyia, Iraq.

While on a patrol, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment discov-

ered a component often used for improvised explosive devices and traced it to a house which the troops subsequently searched. During the search, they uncovered the weapons cache. A suspect was found with the cache and detained.

The find yielded two AK-47 assault rifles, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition,

several magazines, a video camera, six propane tanks and many components used in the making of roadside bombs.

An hour after finding the cache, the troops also found an IED near the site. The suspect is being held for further questioning.



(U.S. Army photos)

(Left) Soldiers found a large weapons cache and detained one suspect near the village of Al Hamdaniyia, Iraq May 19. (Right) The troops found two assault rifles, 1,000 rounds of ammunition and a large number of components used in the making of improvised explosive devices.



Police Patrol

Iowa native Spc. Corey Prevett of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, pulls security next to a counterpart from the Iraqi Police during a patrol out of the Al Suleikh Joint Security Station in Baghdad May 18.



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)

Tests and More Tests

Air Cavalry Pilot Selected as One of the Few Experimental Test Pilots

**By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs**

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Before any new military aircraft makes it into the hands of pilots in the armed forces, someone gets to play with them first ... to check their airworthiness.

These pilots get to take brand new aircraft and push them to their physical and technological limits. These are experimental test pilots and they are a rare breed.

Yet, with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division's illustrious reputation, it's no surprise that the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School has selected one of the unit's pilots to take on the challenge of pushing the limits of aviation.

Fulfilling his life-long dream, Capt. Marc Dalziel, a

CH-47 Chinook pilot and commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, is one of only a handful of pilots selected from the Army for this program.

"I don't know how many (pilots) applied," he said with quiet reserve, "but I hear it's pretty competitive."

The selection process occurs every year, and - since this was a life-long dream of Dalziel's - he decided to finally submit a packet.

"It was helpful to have a lot of flight time, which I'm pretty fortunate to have, and then it's helpful to be a Chinook pilot as well as a maintenance test pilot, which I've had the chance to do also," said the Portland, Ore., native.

The USNTPS is a school located in Patuxent River, Md.,

where seasoned pilots from all over the armed forces go to take new aircraft, fly them, and set the operating parameters for future pilots, said Dalziel.

"The technical manuals are written by experimental test pilots. They set up the operating limitations for the aircraft," he said. "The other aspect of it is the electronics. If (the equipment) has been plugged into an aircraft, it's been tested by an experimental test pilot."

Not only do the experimental test pilots have to push the limits in clear, blue skies, they also have to traverse through dangerous weather conditions, said Dalziel.

"There are a couple programs where they do the flying in icing conditions," he said. "Just like pushing the limits on the engines, they're going to push the limits on the rotors and things like that."

Being selected for the program is not as easy as just heading to the school when the next class starts; Dalziel has a lot to accomplish before his class in February 2010.

For starters, he has to complete a graduate course in a program of his choice. He hasn't yet decided what he'll get a master's degree in, but he is diligently looking, he said.

After he finishes his graduate studies, he then has to attend the Intermediate Level Education course.

This is a course designed for officers promoted to the rank of major, said Dalziel.

With a graduate degree and ILE out of the way, he's ready

for the USNTPS, right?

Not so fast.

After all of that, Dalziel still has to attend the fixed-wing multi-engine aircraft course at Fort Rucker, Ala. Then he'll be ready for the USNTPS.

This seems like a lot, but this pilot is ready for the challenge and the honor bestowed upon him, he said.

"It's kind of like following in the footsteps of a lot of other people who have been really great pilots," said Dalziel. "A lot of the guys who are in the Army astronaut program end up walking this same path. A lot of Army astronauts have gone through the experimental test pilot program on their way to becoming astronauts."

"If the opportunity presents itself to (become an astronaut), I'll take it, but I'd really like to just do the best I can otherwise," said Dalziel.

Although Dalziel has a lot of experience in the pilot seat of a Chinook, the twin rotor helicopters used for heavy lifting throughout the Army, he has yet to fly a fixed-wing aircraft, let alone a jet, he said.

"Flying jets is part of the course. I'm really excited to do that ... it'll be a lot of fun. It's like a childhood, second-grader kind of dream," said Dalziel with a big grin.

Although being selected for such a program would inflate most Soldiers' egos, Dalziel is grateful and humbled to have been chosen, he said.

"I know I'm in a really elite crowd of people and I'm just kind of really happy to be there," he said modestly.



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Portland, Ore., native Capt. Marc Dalziel, commander and CH-47 Chinook pilot for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stands in front of one of his helicopters at Camp Taji, Iraq.